



Summer 2007

Wyoming

Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium

Joining Forces to Fight Cancer

Wyoming Welcomes Advanced Cancer Technology

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The Cancer Center at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is excited to announce TomoTherapy, a revolutionary innovative option for cancer treatment in Wyoming and the Great West Region. TomoTherapy is a new way to treat cancer by integrating treatment planning, Computerized Tomography (CT) technology, and radiation therapy at the same time. This treatment system brings greater precision, accuracy and assurance to cancer care. The TomoTherapy machine is similar in look to a CT scanner; as it provides helical delivery of radiation to give precise, continuous therapy from all angles around the patient.

For many cancer patients, this new technology could be a lifesaver. TomoTherapy is unique in that it benefits the patients by:

- Capturing an image of each tumor before treatment to precisely align the treatment area based on size and position of the tumor;
- Treating multiple tumor sites simultaneously without reposition of the patient,
- Reducing the number of treatments necessary; and
- Sparing healthy tissue by targeting the precise location of each tumor and reducing the amount of radiation the patient must receive.

The Cancer Center at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is the only hospital from Colorado Springs to Rapid City to offer this innovative treatment option. The Hospital will be unveiling this new technology to medical professionals and the community at the end of July.

For more information on this ground-breaking treatment, please contact Leonard Geringer at 307-633-7835.



Tomo Therapy Machine

Wyoming Pain Initiative

In March 2007, the 59th Wyoming State Legislature enacted the Wyoming Cancer Control Act. This Act lays the foundation for decreasing the impact of cancer on all Wyoming people. In addition to enhanced prevention and screening opportunities set forth in the bill, a section was dedicated to the development of a State Pain Committee. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). The goal of this State Pain Committee is to improve the quality of life of those with chronic pain, their families and caregivers.

According to the Wyoming Cancer Control Act, the pain committee requires members from the following entities: One employee of the WDH who will serve as Chairman to the Committee (appointed by the Director of the WDH); One Member appointed by the Board of Medicine; One Member appointed by the Board of Pharmacy; One Member appointed by the Board of Nursing; and One member of the public who

has experience in pain management appointed by the Director of the WDH. The legislation requires they meet at least twice per year, although the WCCCP anticipates monthly meetings.

The State Pain Committee will be coordinating and facilitating a stakeholder's meeting. This meeting will include a diverse group of agencies, organizations, and individuals from across Wyoming who have an interest in reducing the impact of pain, on Wyoming men, women, and children. This stakeholder's meeting will lay the foundation for the Wyoming Pain Initiative. Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to join forces and become one collaborative voice against pain. The WCCCP has received a \$5000 capacity building grant from the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives for the Wyoming Pain Initiative. If you are interested in being involved with the Wyoming Pain Initiative please contact Kimberly Rogers at Kroger@state.wy.us or via telephone at 307-777-8609.

9th Annual Summer Institute

The Wyoming Department of Education hosted the annual Summer Institute July 9-1, 2007 in Cheyenne, WY. The Summer Institute is a local conference designed to bring together all levels of school district staff, parents, community members and youth to expand knowledge and obtain new ideas within in the fields of prevention, health promotion, community partnerships and education. The 9th Annual Summer Institute was yet again a success. With over 100 teachers, parents, children and health educators attending. Sun safety and skin cancer prevention, an important topic for the WCCCP, was greatly accepted by the audience. Fifteen Sunwise Toolkits were given to teachers as were over 30 sun safe toolkits. Some highlight speakers at the event included: Karl Mecklenburg of the Denver Bronco's, Francisco Guajardo, and Mrs. Nancy Freudenthal, First Lady of Wyoming.



The WCCCP, Wyoming Sun Safe School of Distinction Program Display at the 9th Annual Summer Institute

Please Welcome.....

The WCCEDP would like to welcome the WCCEDP Enrollment Specialist Alice Preheim. Alice has been with the Wyoming Department of Health for three years as the billing specialist with the Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program. When Alice is not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and he two dogs, three cats and two birds. She also fosters animals for the Cheyenne Animal Shelter and the Dankai Animal Sanctuary in Carr Colorado. You may contact Alice at aprehe@state.wy.us or 307-777-2932 with any questions about the WCCEDP! Welcome aboard Alice!

The WCCEDP would also like to welcome the WCCEDP Nurse Case Manager, Wanda Webb. Wanda is a Wyoming native, raised in Torrington and now residing in Cody. She is a registered nurse with a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota. For the past 8 years she has worked with WY healthcare providers, initially to promote quality improvement in chronic disease treatment, and for the past 5 years in diabetes prevention and control. Wanda has 25 years of nursing experience in hospitals, outpatient clinics, public health, HMOs, and schools. . She is very excited to join the Colorectal Cancer Early Detection Program. Wanda can be reached at wwebb@state.wy.us. Welcome aboard Wanda!



Alice Preheim



Wanda Webb

A Letter from our Chairperson

By Dr. Clinton F. Merrill



Dear WCCCC Members:

On July 18, 2007 a semi-annual Consortium meeting was held in Lander. Approximately 50 Consortium members were in attendance. The day was filled with new and exciting information.

Kimberly Rogers, Mary Anne Purtzer, and Senator Charles Scott gave an outstanding update about the progress made with Senate File 131, currently known as the Wyoming Cancer Control Act. In addition, Kimberly Rogers introduced the newly unveiled Colorectal Cancer Early Detection Program which is underway at the Wyoming Department of Health.

The Consortium was asked to endorse three vital issues pertaining to tobacco prevention and control. The first issue was the endorsement of Smokefree Wyoming. Mike Vacauteran provided a presentation on the current progress of Smokefree Wyoming. The second tobacco-related endorsement is the support for the Wyoming Through With Chew Five Year Strategic Plan. Niki Sue Mueller of WTWC provided information and asked that the WCCCC support efforts to decrease spit tobacco use and increase quit attempts in conjunction with their other sponsors. And last, but certainly not least, the WCCCC was asked to continue to endorse the recommended funding levels in the area of Tobacco Prevention & Control as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

The WCCCC members in attendance voted on the endorsements. In addition, the voting ballots were sent out electronically. According to the WCCCC bylaws, majority vote will rule.

Dr. Donna Artery of the Office of Pharmacy and Kimberly Rogers of the Cancer Control Program provided

the Consortium with education and information relating to pain management, and the challenging issues surrounding the efforts.

A workgroup update was provided by workgroup members, and the WCCCC unveiled its newest workgroup—the Breast and Cervical Cancer Network, who is lead by Chairperson Lynn Erickson. Welcome aboard!

United State Senator John Barasso joined the meeting from Capitol Hill via speaker phone and congratulated the Consortium on the progress made on the Wyoming Cancer Control Act.

The highlight of the Consortium meeting was during the lunch presentation when Senator Scott, Senator Eli Bebout, Loretta Wolf, Lisa Eades, and Senator Barasso, were given special recognition for their support and hard work on the bill.

The Consortium meeting came to a close with a video clip and information about a childhood cancer toolkit currently under development. Pediatricians across the state will receive this resource. All of the power point presentations and pictures from the meeting will be posted on the website at www.fightcancerwy.com

Thank you to all that participated, and attended the meeting! Our next meeting is set for May 7-8, 2008 in conjunction with the Wyoming Chronic Disease Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Please mark your calendars!

Sincerely,

Clinton F. Merrill, Jr. MD

Clinton F. Merrill Jr., M.D.
WCCCC Chairperson



What is Palliative Care?

September is Pain Awareness and Palliative Care Awareness Month. It is important to understand the difference between pain management and palliative care.

“If pain can be defined as a highly unpleasant, individualized experience of one of the body's defense mechanisms indicating an injury or problem, pain management encompasses all interventions used to understand and ease pain, and, if possible, to alleviate the cause of the pain.” (2007 Encyclopedia of Surgery)

How does pain effect our population?

An estimated 50 million Americans cope with pain daily; Chronic pain is most common cause of long-term disability, and almost 1/3 of all Americans will experience severe chronic pain at some point in their lives; and 90% of pain can be relieved, but tools we have (including comprehensive pain management plans) are not being utilized.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines palliative care as, “An approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.” (2007)

Palliative care includes: relief from pain and other distressing symptoms; affirms life and regards dying as a natural process; intends to neither accelerate nor postpone death; integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care; and uses a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counseling. (WHO, 2007)

Palliative care and pain Management are both imperative to the continuum of cancer care. However, it is important to point out, while pain management is vital to the process of palliative care, but palliative care is not vital to pain management; meaning that a patient may not need palliative care, but might need pain management. Pain management is only one component of palliative care, palliative care must include the treatment of the whole person; Mind, Body and Spirit.

There is a much deeper problem in regards to pain management and palliative care; the problem lies at the heart of the patient. Many cancer patients are in state of fear and pain through the last days and even months of their lives.

Palliative care should relive pain and empower the patient and their families to help them reclaim the end of their lives. The Reclaim the End of Life Initiative out of New Hampshire, is dedicated to this process. For more information on this Initiative, please visit www.reclaimtheend.org.

The WCCCC will be implementing the Wyoming Pain Initiative. For more information or how to get involved, please contact Kimberly Rogers at Kroger@state.wy.us or via telephone 307.777.8609



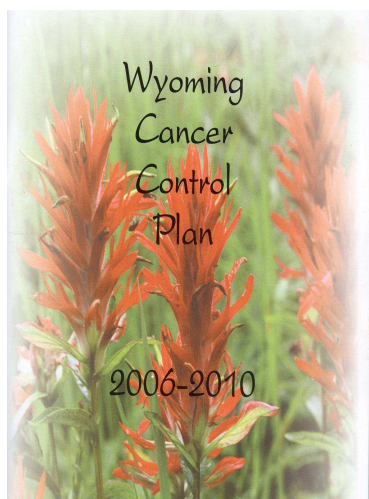
Save the Date!

**May 7-8, 2008
Little America
Cheyenne, WY**

Save the date for the first **EVER** Chronic Disease Conference.

This conference will focus on all chronic diseases; with a special focus on Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes and Substance Abuse. There will also be general health sessions.

Mark your calendars now for this exciting event! More information to come.



For a copy of the 2006-2010 Wyoming Cancer Control Plan please visit the web at www.fightcancerwy.com

Contacts

and information

**Submit articles to: Katie Hess
Call for information: (307) 777.1918**

